CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A wood chipper safety device, comprising:

a first elongated structure positioned outside of and adjacent to an infeed chute of a wood chipper, wherein the first elongated structure is movable vertically downward between a plurality of positions; and

an actuator operably connected to the first elongated structure, the actuator having a plurality of operable positions corresponding to the plurality of positions of the first elongated structure.

2. The wood chipper safety device of claim 1, wherein the actuator has a first operable position corresponding to a first position of the first elongated structure, the first operable position of the actuator permitting motive operation of a powered feed and cutting system of the wood chipper.

3. The wood chipper safety device of claim 1, wherein the actuator has a second operable position corresponding to a second position of the first elongated structure, the second operable position of the actuator interrupting motive operation of a powered feed and cutting system of the wood chipper.

4. The wood chipper safety device of claim 1, wherein the actuator has a third operable position corresponding to a third position of the first elongated structure, the third operable position of the actuator reversing motive operation of a powered feed and cutting system of the wood chipper.

5. The wood chipper safety device of claim 1, further comprising a linkage operably connecting the actuator to the first elongated structure.

6. The wood chipper safety device of claim 1, further comprising a second elongated structure positioned outside of and adjacent to the infeed chute of the wood chipper,

wherein the second elongated structure is movable opposite the feed direction of the wood chipper between a plurality of positions.

7. The wood chipper safety device of claim 6, wherein the actuator has a first operable position corresponding to a first position of the second elongated structure, the first operable position of the actuator permitting motive operation of a powered feed and cutting system of the wood chipper.

8. The wood chipper safety device of claim 6, wherein the actuator has a second operable position corresponding to a second position of the second elongated structure, the second operable position of the actuator interrupting motive operation of a powered feed and cutting system of the wood chipper.

9. The wood chipper safety device of claim 6, wherein the actuator has a third operable position corresponding to a third position of the second elongated structure, the third operable position of the actuator reversing motive operation of a powered feed and cutting system of the wood chipper.

10. The wood chipper safety device of claim 6, wherein the first elongated structure is rigidly attached to the second elongated structure.

11. A wood chipper safety device, comprising:

Subca3 a first elongated structure positioned outside of and adjacent to an infeed chute of a wood chipper, wherein the first elongated structure is movable radially towards an opening of the infeed chute between a plurality of positions;

a second elongated structure positioned outside of and adjacent to the infeed chute of the wood chipper, wherein the second elongated structure is movable radially towards the opening of the infeed chute between a plurality of positions;

an actuator operably connected to the first elongated structure and the second elongated structure, the actuator having a plurality of operable positions corresponding to the

plurality of positions of the first elongated structure and the plurality of positions of the second elongated structure; and

a linkage operably connecting the actuator to the first elongated structure and the second elongated structure.

12. The wood chipper safety device of claim 11, wherein the actuator has a first operable position corresponding to a first position of the first elongated structure and a first position of the second elongated structure, the first operable position of the actuator permitting motive operation of a powered feed and cutting system of the wood chipper.

13. The wood chipper safety device of claim 11, wherein the actuator has a second operable position corresponding to a second position of the first elongated structure and a second position of the second elongated structure, the second operable position of the actuator interrupting motive operation of a powered feed and cutting system of the wood chipper.

14. The wood chipper safety device of claim 11, wherein the actuator has a third operable position corresponding to a third position of the first elongated structure and a third position of the second elongated structure, the third operable position of the actuator reversing motive operation of a powered feed and cutting system of the wood chipper.

15. The wood chipper safety device of claim 11, wherein the first elongated structure is rigidly attached to the second elongated structure.

16. A waste reducing device having a powered feed system, a powered cutting system, and an infeed chute, the waste reducing device comprising:

a first elongated structure positioned outside of and adjacent to the infeed chute, wherein the first elongated structure is movable vertically downward between a plurality of positions; and

an actuator operably connected to the first elongated structure, the actuator having a plurality of operable positions corresponding to the plurality of positions of the first elongated structure.

17. The waste reducing device of claim 16, wherein the actuator has a first operable position corresponding to a first position of the first elongated structure, the first operable position of the actuator permitting motive operation of the powered feed system and the powered cutting system.

18. The waste reducing device of claim 16, wherein the actuator has a second operable position corresponding to a second position of the first elongated structure, the second operable position of the actuator interrupting motive operation of the powered feed system and the powered cutting system.

19. The waste reducing device of claim 16, wherein the actuator has a third operable position corresponding to a third position of the first elongated structure, the third operable position of the actuator reversing motive operation of the powered feed system and the powered cutting system.

20. The waste reducing device of claim 16, further comprising a linkage operably connecting the actuator to the first elongated structure.

21. The waste reducing device of claim 16, further comprising a second elongated structure positioned outside of and adjacent to the infeed chute, wherein the second elongated structure is movable opposite the feed direction of the waste reducing device between a plurality of positions.

22. The waste reducing device of claim 21, wherein the actuator has a first operable position corresponding to a first position of the second elongated structure, the first operable position of the actuator permitting motive operation of the powered feed system and the powered cutting system.

23. The waste reducing device of claim 21, wherein the actuator has a second operable position corresponding to a second position of the second elongated structure, the second operable position of the actuator interrupting motive operation of the powered feed system and the powered cutting system.

24. The waste reducing device of claim 21, wherein the actuator has a third operable position corresponding to a third position of the second elongated structure, the third operable position of the actuator reversing motive operation of the powered feed system and the powered cutting system.

25. The waste reducing device of claim 21, wherein the first elongated structure is rigidly attached to the second elongated structure.

26. A wood chipper having a powered feed system, a powered cutting system, and an infeed chute, the wood chipper comprising:
a first elongated structure positioned outside of and adjacent to the infeed chute, wherein the first elongated structure is movable radially towards an opening of the infeed chute between a plurality of positions;
a second elongated structure positioned outside of and adjacent to the infeed chute, wherein the second elongated structure is movable radially towards the opening of the infeed chute between a plurality of positions;
an actuator operably connected to the first elongated structure and the second elongated structure, the actuator having a plurality of operable positions corresponding to the plurality of positions of the first elongated structure and the plurality of positions of the second elongated structure; and
a linkage operably connecting the actuator to the first elongated structure and the second elongated structure.

27. The wood chipper of claim 26, wherein the actuator has a first operable position corresponding to a first position of the first elongated structure and a first position of the

second elongated structure, the first operable position of the actuator permitting motive operation of the powered feed system and the powered cutting system.

28. The wood chipper of claim 26, wherein the actuator has a second operable position corresponding to a second position of the first elongated structure and a second position of the second elongated structure, the second operable position of the actuator interrupting motive operation of the powered feed system and the powered cutting system.

29. The wood chipper of claim 26, wherein the actuator has a third operable position corresponding to a third position of the first elongated structure and a third position of the second elongated structure, the third operable position of the actuator reversing motive operation of the powered feed system and the powered cutting system.

30. The wood chipper of claim 26, wherein the first elongated structure is rigidly attached to the second elongated structure.